

30 May 2006

English only

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE  
Working Party on Transport Statistics  
Task force on statistics on the volume of road traffic (vehicle-kilometres)  
(Heerlen, The Netherlands, 22-23 May 2006)

## REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE MEETING

### STATISTICS ON THE VOLUME OF ROAD TRAFFIC (VEHICLE-KILOMETRES)

held at Statistics Netherlands (CBS), Heerlen, The Netherlands

#### ATTENDANCE

The Task-force meeting on Statistics on the Volume of Road Traffic (vehicle-kilometres) was held at Statistics Netherlands (CBS), Heerlen, the Netherlands under the chairmanship of Mr. Erik Grib (Denmark). Representatives of the following UNECE member States participated: Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Romania and Slovakia. The UNECE secretariat, Eurostat and the ECMT were also present (see Annex).

#### ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Task-force meeting **elected** Mr. Erik Grib (Denmark) as the Chairman of the Meeting.

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Task-force meeting **adopted** the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat ([Informal document 3](#)).

#### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The host country, secretariat and the chairman **welcomed** the participants and **recalled** the principal conclusions of the Copenhagen meeting ([TRANS/WP.6/AC.5/2005/16](#)), as well as the first session of the Task-force ([Informal document 2](#)).

## STRUCTURE OF THE MANUAL AND DISTRIBUTION OF TASKS

The Task-force **discussed** and **revised** the draft list of contents of the handbook. The new **agreed** draft table of contents and distributed the work among the delegations is as follows:

### HANDBOOK ON STATISTICS ON ROAD TRAFFIC PERFORMANCE

#### Draft Table of Contents

Contents	Focal points (Full addresses are in the Annex)
1. Scope of the handbook	To be decided in the next to the final stage of the project.
2. Users' needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Common Transport Policy (EU)</li> <li>b. National transport policies</li> <li>c. Infrastructure management</li> <li>d. Environmental policies</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mrs Marly ODEKERKEN-SMEETS</b> (The Netherlands) <a href="mailto:MODN@CBS.NL">MODN@CBS.NL</a></p> <p>Assisted by: Mr Ingo KOSSMANN (Germany) Ms Eleonora Papadimitriou (Greece) Mr Mario Barreto (ECMT)</p>
3. Data collection methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. Odometer readings (inspection of vehicles)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General description of methodology</li> <li>- Data sources</li> <li>- Coverage               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National vehicles</li> <li>Traffic abroad included</li> <li>Off road traffic included</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Needs for supplementary statistics</li> <li>- Frequency of readings and related biases</li> <li>- Measurement errors</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>b. Household surveys</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General description of methodology</li> <li>- Data sources</li> <li>- Coverage               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National vehicles</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Needs for supplementary statistics</li> <li>- Recall effects</li> <li>- Sampling and sample errors</li> <li>- Other errors</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>c. Traffic counts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General description of methodology</li> <li>- Data sources</li> <li>- Coverage               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National vehicles</li> <li>Foreign vehicles</li> <li>Manual counts of nationality etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Sampling and sample errors</li> <li>- Other errors</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Mr Lars Klit REIFF (Denmark)</b> <a href="mailto:lk@vd.dk">lk@vd.dk</a></p> <p>Assisted by: Mrs Marly ODEKERKEN-SMEETS (The Netherlands)</p> <p><b>Mr Erik E. GRIB (Denmark)</b> <a href="mailto:eeg@dst.dk">eeg@dst.dk</a></p> <p>Assisted by: Mr Ingo KOSSMANN (Germany) Mrs Sylvie MABILE (France)</p> <p><b>Mrs Olga KASTLOVA (Czech Republic)</b> <a href="mailto:olga.kastlova@mocr.cz">olga.kastlova@mocr.cz</a></p> <p>Assisted by: Mrs Jela KYSELOVA (Slovakia) Mrs Jana LUTTMERDINGOVA (Slovakia) Mr Ingo KOSSMANN (Germany) Mr Stefan ROMANOVSKI (Romania)</p>

<p><b>d. Derived from fuel consumption</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General description of methodology</li> <li>- Data sources</li> <li>- Coverage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cross-border trade</li> <li>Off-road consumption</li> <li>Manual counts of nationality etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Needs for supplementary statistics</li> <li>- Error sources</li> </ul> <p><b>e. Border surveys</b></p>	<p>Mr Lars Klit REIFF (Denmark)</p> <p><b>Mrs Sylvie MABILE (France)</b> <a href="mailto:sylvie.mabile@equipement.gouv.fr">sylvie.mabile@equipement.gouv.fr</a></p> <p>Assisted by: Mr Ingo KOSSMANN (Germany)</p> <p><b>Mr Stefan ROMANOVSKI (Romania)</b> <a href="mailto:rpi@andnet.ro">rpi@andnet.ro</a></p>
<p>4. Inland and foreign traffic</p>	<p>To be decided in the next to the final stage of the project.</p>
<p>5. Synthesis</p>	<p>To be decided in the next to the final stage of the project.</p>
<p>6. Relevant definitions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Infrastructure</li> <li>b. Vehicles</li> <li>c. Traffic</li> <li>d. Fuel consumption</li> <li>e. Others</li> </ol>	<p><b>Mr Hans Strelow (Eurostat)</b> <a href="mailto:Hans.Strelow@ec.europa.eu">Hans.Strelow@ec.europa.eu</a></p>
<p>7. Proposal for a pan European survey</p>	<p>To be discussed later</p>

## PRESENTATION OF DRAFT CHAPTERS

Focal points presented their draft chapters. These were discussed at length. The principal specific observations are as follows:

Chapter 2 of the Handbook on Traffic Volume gives an overview of the user needs. Mrs Marly Odekerken-Smeets presented it. The use of information on vehicle kilometres (traffic performance, traffic movements) for several types of vehicles is widely spread and depends very much on the category of users of this data. Some major points of interest in relation to the vehicle, the user of the vehicle and the use of infrastructure are pointed out. Examples for interesting datasets concerning traffic movements according to the category of users are presented in the form of a table.

Mr. Lars Reiff presented the headlines in the draft for chapter 3a – Odometer readings. The draft is primarily based on the Danish method. It was decided to change the chapter to a more general approach and to use "fact boxes" for nation-specific examples. Papers from the Copenhagen Workshop will be studied for more inspiration.

Mr. Erik Grib presented Chapter 3b on Household surveys. The Task Force discussed the draft chapter and proposed a slight extension of the list of variables; further elaboration with regard to coverage problems in case of telephone surveys; and a more detailed description of the risk of underreporting in surveys where the sampled vehicle owners were asked to keep a diary of journeys made in a period. Mr. Ilmar Pihlak informed about an Estonian survey where drivers were asked to report the distance in urban area for each journey carried out in a period. The

distance reported should be based on odometer readings. Mr. Philak will submit further description in writing. Mr. Vasilis Nicolaou, consultant for Eurostat, will supply preliminary result from a survey about methodologies applied in Member States in relation to daily mobile surveys in July 2006. The Task Force was interested in the relevant national questionnaires applied and asked the Secretariat to bring forward the request to the participants in the Copenhagen Workshop and well as to the delegates of WP.6.

Chapter 3c. Mrs Olga Kastlova presented document (traffic counts) submitted to the Task-force meeting by the Czech and Slovak Republics. The paper includes type of roads where a census should take place and the recommended coverage. Furthermore it deals with time range (number of days, hours) and organisation including breakdown by vehicle types of the census. Also the detailed description of method used for calculation of vehicle kilometres is attached.

Mrs Sylvie Mabile gave a short overview of the Chapter 3d which will be presented at the September 2006 meeting of the Task force.

Mr. Stefan Romanovschi presented draft Chapter 3e that will be revised for the September 2006 meeting of the Task force according to discussion.

Focal points were **recommended** to prepare for the next meeting a list of words and notions that need to be defined in the final phase of the project.

It was **decided** to include a table in the handbook showing the main method(s) for estimating the overall vehicle kilometres in each member country. A first draft will be prepared for the next meeting of the WP.6, giving the member countries a possibility to add correct information.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

The Task-force meeting **decided** to request the secretariat to put unedited draft chapters on the web in order to provide opportunities to the interested parties to have access to these documents and to send appropriate inputs to the focal points. The web address for these chapters is:

[http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/transstatac5draft\\_chapters.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/transstatac5draft_chapters.html)

**Interested parties are invited to communicate their suggestions, observations, recommendations, national experiences and comparisons, as well as other type of input directly to the focal point of the relevant segment of the study.**

## NEXT MEETINGS

The Task-force meeting **agreed** about the dates and venues of its meetings in 2006:

- 21-22 September 2006 (Bratislava – hosted by Slovakia)
- 30 November and 1 December 2006 (Maastricht, the Netherlands – hosted by the Netherlands)

## CONCLUSIONS

The meeting **decided** that the secretariat should continue to inform Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) about the activities of this Task force.

Delegates to the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) interested in the work of this Task-force are **welcome to join** its ongoing work and efforts on the project. This is an open invitation.

All general information about the activities of the project such as draft agendas with registration forms and reports are available at this address:

<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/transstatac5agenda.html>

The interested parties are **invited to visit regularly** this address in order to get information about the general activities of the Task-force.

As far as specific information about each segment of the project is concerned, the interested parties are **encouraged** to contact directly the focal points as specified above. Full address list of the focal points is available in the Annex of this document.

The meeting **decided** to submit on this document to the next meeting of the WP.6.

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ANNEX

***Task Force on statistics on the volume of road traffic (vehicle-kilometres)***

*Heerlen, The Netherlands, 22-23 May 2006*

Chairman: Mr. Erik Grib (Denmark)

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